THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka had asked for increase in the monthly allocation of rice from 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes;

(c) and (d) The allocation has been raised to 55,000 tonnes for the month May 1987.

Financial assistance to sugar mills in Karnataka

860. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had recently urged the Central Government to provide financial assistance from the Central Sugar Development Fund Scheme for the sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance the Central Government had provided to the State Government during the last 3 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Gangavathi Sugar Limited at Raichur in Karnataka is lying closed for the last three years due to financial crisis; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to provide assistance and restart the said mill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Applications from 8 sugar factories in Karnataka for financial assistance from Sugar Development Fund for development of sugarcane were received. On examination, these were found incomplete in regard to material information required in support of the Schemes proposed. All the sugar factories were, therefore, advised to resubmit their applications alongwith full details/information. No application for financial assistance for modernisation/rehabilitation of plant and machinery has been received from sugar factories in Karnataka. As such no financial assistance could be sanctioned to sugar factories in Karnataka.

(c) and (d) According to the information available with the Central Government, the Gangavathi Sugars Limited at Raichur did not commence crushing operations during 1984-85 and 1985-86 seasons, and also till date during the 1986-87 seasons. It is primarily for the management of the sugar factory to ensure its efficient running. However, the sugar mills can obtain loans from Sugar Development Fund administered by the Central Government at concessional rate of interest towards meeting shortfall in promoters contribution for modernisation/rehabilitation of plant and machinery and for development of sugarcane in its command area, subject to the consideration of the completeness and correctness of details furnished and also the satisfaction of priorities and guidelines.

Working of co-operative societies

861. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had some time back set up a Committee to go into the question of working of the co-operative societies in the country;

(b) if so, what were the terms of reference and what are the findings/recommendations thereon; and

(c) what follow up action is under Government's consideration at present?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a 'Committee on Cooperative Law for Democratisation and Professionalisation of Management in Cooperatives' was constituted on 27th September, 1985 to examine the Cooperative Acts/Rules in the States and to make suitable recommendations to activise democratic process coupled with promotion of professional management of the cooperatives. The Committee has submitted its Report on 10th April, 1987.

Another 'Committee on the Structure and Role of National Cooperative Societies' was set up on 16th April, 1986. (i) to assess the performance of the national level cooperative federations; (ii) to exa-